

the amount. Is there any case of that sort? It may be unnecessary budgetting.

President.—Is there any case in respect of this grant where work has been budgetted for but subsequently found to be not necessary at all, and that grant amount lapsed? That will show inattention.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I want notice.

Reasons for not giving Civil Powers to all the Panchayats.

356. Mr. I. E. Ambookan.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have any reasons for not giving civil power to all the Panchayats in the State? If so, what are they?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The member is referred to para 116 of the *Report of the Administration of the Department of Agriculture and Panchayats for the year 1999*, a copy of which is placed on the Council Secretary's table for reference. As most of the Panchayats have been re-constituted under the amending Regulation III of 1997, the matter has now been taken up for consideration by the Government.

Expenditure, etc., of the Village Panchayats.

357. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the system on which the budget expenditure of the Panchayat is apportioned;

(b) if it is based on population, area or proximity to the town;

(c) the number of resolutions, if any, passed by the Panchayats but disregarded or overruled by the Superintendent of Panchayats during the last year?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) and (b). Expenditure is provided for in the Panchayat budget according to the actual requirements of each village, and is generally apportioned accordingly.

But in cases where unforeseen expenditure is urgently required for a village and no funds are available, the funds provided for less urgent works are diverted for meeting the same.

(c) The Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats does not remember to have disregarded or overruled any Panchayat resolution.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Are the actual requirements said here based on the representations of the Panchayats or on the decision of the Superintendent?

President.—You want to know whether it is on the actual requirements reported by the Panchayats, or on the decision of the Superintendent. They are supposed to work in co-operation. They will consult him, and a decision will be ultimately arrived at.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Proposals are received from the Panchayats, and they are investigated into, and then definite proposals are submitted to the Government.

President.—Exactly the same thing as I stated. No difference whatsoever.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—With whom is the final decision? Is it with the Panchayats or with the Superintendent? They may require some 5,000 rupees. Suppose the Superintendent says 2,000 rupees could be given or only 75 rupees could be given. Then who is to decide whether the requirement comes only to 75 or 2000? Between the Superintendent and the Panchayat, who is the deciding authority?

President.—I suppose it is the Superintendent. So, his voice must prevail. You don't allow yourself to be controlled by the Panchayats?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Certainly not, Sir.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—There is a difference of 7,000 rupees in one Panchayat and 75 rupees in another Panchayat.

President.—Those requirements are the actual requirements. There is no uniformity in the amount given to each Panchayat. It depends upon the requirements of each Panchayat.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—In 1906 that is, at the very beginning, there is a uniformity in the allotment made.

President.—Is there uniformity?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Almost.

President.—Look at the figures. No two figures agree. But, when it comes to 1100, there is a difference of 7,000 and 75 rupees. That is a case when work involving very heavy cost had to be undertaken.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That can be explained. From 1098 onwards the construction of *chiras*, tanks, etc., was transferred to the Panchayats. Till that date, all these works were done by the Minor Irrigation Department and the D. P. W.

President.—That won't be an answer to the question. A considerably large amount like 7,000 was spent in one village, and a very small sum of 75 rupees alone was spent in the same year in another Panchayat. How do you explain this great difference? In a particular Panchayat such a large amount may have been required for work that incurred a large amount. Which is that village? Probably, Nemmara.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Yes, in Nemmara.

President.—In the year 1100 what expensive works did you undertake in Nemmara? You said Rs. 7,484 has been granted, and the amount actually spent is Rs. 6,116. This is a very expensive work in Nemmara.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That was for water supply in Nemmara—for sinking wells.

President.—And putting up *chiras* also.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Tanks and wells.

President.—And all this large amount was utilized for wells?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Tanks also. Very big tanks were constructed in Nemmara in 1100.

President.—Of course, wells won't consume such a large amount. So that for the supply of drinking water a very large tank, involving heavy expenditure, was sunk.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Again, "unforeseen expenditure is urgently required". Who is to decide the nature of the unforeseen expenditure? Who is that authority?

President.—The deciding authority will decide what the unforeseen expenditure is.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats. Is it not so? That is what I want to know. "Are diverted for meeting the same". Can the Superintendent say that the diversion of Panchayat funds

to any other departments has ever taken place? I want to know whether it has been diverted.

President.—Was there any case of diversion from the Panchayat Department to the Agricultural Department or any other department under your control?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That question is answered in question No. 358.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is not this diversion detrimental to the Panchayats?

President.—It is a matter of inference. When the Panchayats have funds, but do not want the amount, and the Agricultural Department stands badly in need of funds, I don't think it is detrimental.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is the diversion going on even after the formation of this Council? I mean, in the current year.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—If there is any diversion, the matter will be placed before the Council.

President.—There is a demand under one head. Mr. Pisharodi will enlighten us on the point.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—There is already a grant under the same demand. We do not transfer allotments under different demands.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—"The Superintendent of Agriculture does not remember to have disregarded or overruled any Panchayat resolution." I know full well that he can't remember; because he is in charge of so many departments.

President.—Don't make such personal remarks.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Has he gone through the records and satisfied himself that he has not done so? Our questions are put some days back in order that he should not answer from memory.

President.—Are you in a position to say that the records have been examined, and on a reference to these records no disregarding or overruling of any Panchayat resolution has been done?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The Hon'ble Member is at perfect liberty to point out any specific cases of that kind.

President.—When a question comes, you should answer that, after examining the records.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—But he says he does not remember.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—As far as possible, all records have been examined, and it is only after the examination of the records that these answers have been furnished.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—How is it that allotments made for Panchayats are diverted to Agriculture, if he has not overruled or disregarded the resolutions of the Panchayats? Does he mean to say that the Panchayats might not have made any recommendation at all?

President.—Without any recommendation, he won't divert. Does that pre-suppose that, for the purpose of diversion, he has made grants, and the whole amount has not been paid? There was no necessity to pay the amount; the work was not found necessary. When there was no work available, he transferred the amount to the Department of Agriculture, and that need not show that any resolutions of the Panchayat have been overruled or disregarded. Is there any inconsistency?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—There is some disregard. When there was money he did not give the amount according to the proposals of the Panchayats. So I know there is some disregard.

President.—After the allotment, the work may not be found to be actually necessary. So, funds become available for diversion to other departments, and he might divert it to the Agricultural Department. That does not necessarily imply disregarding or overruling the Panchayat resolution.

The execution of works under the Panchayat Department by the P. W. D.

358. മിസ്റ്റർ ക്ലിപ്പിങ്ങാട്ട് ശങ്കരൻനമ്പൂതിരി.—(എ) കഴിഞ്ഞ മൂന്നു കൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കിടയിൽ പഞ്ചായത്തുകാരുടെ മുദ്രതലയിൽ ഉള്ള പണികൾ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുവേണ നടത്തേണ്ടിവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

(ബി) ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിന്റേ കാരണമെന്താണ്?

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. രാമമണോൻ.—(എ) & (ബി) ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നുണ്ടാകീട്ടുള്ള ചട്ടങ്ങൾ അനുസരിച്ച് 500 ക.യിൽ താഴെ ചിലവുള്ളതും മറ്റൊത്ത വിഭാഗമുള്ള ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതും ആയ പണികൾ മാത്രമേ പഞ്ചായത്തുമുഖേന സാധാരണ നടത്താറുള്ളൂ. അപ്രകാരം പഞ്ചായത്തുമുഖേന നടത്താറുള്ള പണികളിൽ താഴെ കാണിക്കണവ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലായി നടത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

I. ചേരാനല്ലൂർ പഞ്ചായത്തിൽ പെട്ട വരാപ്പുഴ റോഡിൽ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കത്താൽ ഉണ്ടായ ചില കേടുപാടുകൾ തീർക്കൽ.